

X-Rated Videogames

Spark A Seattle Fight;

ACLU Takes A Stand

Seattle, Nov. 23.

Vidgames with "X" connotations have sparked controversy in Seattle as in other areas of the country, setting government agencies here against one another and bringing protests from the local branch of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Anticipating the arrival of X-rated homevideo games "Custer's

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Revenge," (wherein "Custer" has "relations" with an Indian woman tied to a pole) "Beat 'Em and Eat 'Em," and "Bachelor Party," the Seattle Office of Women's rights sent out a missive on its official letterhead urging organizations to boycott any retailer selling the product.

The Mayor's office responded by having Mayor Charles Royer's attorney advise that it was "not appropriate" for a government agency to promote such a boycott, and the Right's office withdrew its letter, but not before the local ACLU office went into a snit.

A local ACLU spokesman went at the city office for "telling individuals what they should or should not purchase." The spokesman agreed that the games were "unspeakable," but said no government agency had the right to discourage sales of the games. Other groups have called the games racist, sexist and dangerous.

The games have generated controversy in many parts of the country, causing protest marches when put on display for retailers at the Gotham situated New York Hilton, and bringing Warner Communications Inc. subsid. Atari much grief, as they are designed to fit on its VCS 2600 player by the L.A. based American Multiple Industries.

Petition-bearing feminists in Gotham are reported to have been heard saying that the games are designed and marketed by Atari, which is most definitely not the case.

In Seattle, the Office of Women's Rights had to send out a letter of retraction, saying, in part, "Contrary to what was stated in my letter to you dated Nov. 8, 1982, the city of Seattle does not take a position on what activity is appropriate in dealing with this highly offensive material."

Reportedly, the American Multiple Industries X-games will be available in about a dozen Seattle retail outlets this week.